



MARYMOUNT
CONVENT SCHOOL
20 Marymount Road
Singapore 297754



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs Allison Lim

Part 1: The Journey - Faith & Favour



Ever since joining us in 2017, you have always strongly advocated gratitude; often reminding our girls and staff to count our blessings and be a blessing to others.

Out of the eight school values, why the focus on Gratitude?

As a newly-appointed Principal back in 2017, the beginning was full of unprecedented challenges, and through overcoming all of that, we see just how Truly Blessed, Highly Favoured and Deeply Loved we are by God.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

We are Truly Blessed.

The Big Move

I joined Marymount Convent School at the time when PERI-upgrading was finally completed, and we were all looking forward to moving into the new school compound by November 2017, for the new school year. However, as we approached the end of December 2017, we had yet to obtain the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) for the big move back to the campus. Things were starting to look daunting.

After our Executive Committee meeting (comprising of Department Heads) on 28 December 2017, instead of joining the team for potluck, the then-Vice Principal, Christina Tan, myself and the project manager for our school's PERI-upgrading went to the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) to try to expedite our move back to the campus. We had no idea who to look for and when we reached the huge building, the first

miracle happened. The first officer we met when the lift door opened was the personnel in-charge of our school's PERI upgrading. Things took off from there and the TOP was obtained within 24 hours. We were finally able to hold our first meeting in the new campus.

However, we then received news that was to potentially set us back in our big plans to move in - we did not have a licence for our canteen operators. There was no way we could start school without the canteen providing food for the girls and staff! Together with the then-Vice Principal, Ms Cheryl Lee, we went all out to hunt for a solution. The second miracle happened - God provided a relative who worked at the National Environment Agency (NEA) to help us to locate the person-in-charge for school canteen licensing. Our problem was very quickly resolved and we received preliminary approval to run the canteen the night just before school reopening.

Our staff were truly very supportive and accommodating. We had to replan the orientation programme, pack and unpack our things and clean the dusty classrooms but everyone had fun. There was so much camaraderie and laughter that it was so heartwarming to see love emanating from everyone.

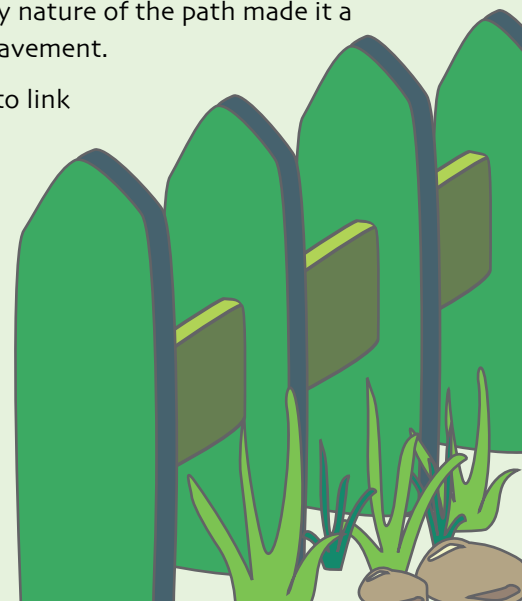
The Back Gate

Back then, we only had one exit, and that was via the main gate.

One day after the Big Move, several staff and I were at the new block staring hard at Caldecott MRT station and the idea came - a back gate!

We saw a need for a back gate to be built, for the convenience and safety of our staff and students. We wrote to many agencies but we were rejected for the same reason - the hilly nature of the path made it a challenge to build a pavement.

We were finally able to link up with Mr Chee Hong Tat, the then-MP of Toa Payoh Constituency, who understood our problems and agreed that the back gate had to be installed. He went all out to help us, with a team



of engineers, whose daughters were actually from Marymount Convent School, overseeing the project and the rest is history. Such divine intervention!

Air-Conditioned Hall

We saw a need for an air-conditioned hall, so that our girls could not only have assembly in a comfortable venue but also sit for their national examinations in a conducive environment with the haze being an inevitable issue in our country. By God's grace, it was then that we received a call from a group of alumni who wanted to gift the school something and asked what we needed.

After communicating the need for an air-conditioned hall, the alumni donated the air-conditioning system coupled with good quality air filters, to the school. That year, our girls sat for their Prelims and PSLE in the air-conditioned hall for the first time.

Our Primary 5 and 6 girls made Thank You cards for our alumni in gratitude for their generous donations.

Having overcome these challenges and emerging stronger, we ought to, as a school, count our blessings as we are indeed Truly Blessed. Hence, the focus on gratitude, to give thanks to people who came by to help us and to God for all the grace and blessings He has shown us.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

We are Highly Favoured.

The Marymount Family

When I first joined the Marymount Family, students did not respond positively to their Quality of School Experience (QSE) survey. Back then, teachers were very disappointed and discouraged by the results of the survey. Teachers truly cared - endless marking, staying back for remedials, always looking out for ways to help the girls learn meaningfully. However, the girls felt that teachers only cared about the results, not for them.

I saw the gap - students needed more than just remediation. Students needed to experience the joy of learning. They needed programmes to stretch them and help them to realise their potential. They needed to experience success. Hence, the birth of Our Expanded Learning Experiences (OELE) and carefully-curated subject-time allocations (stretch programmes were put in place, and remedial lessons removed).

Teachers also shared the need to remove the stigma of "Top Classes". The model of having top classes was causing unnecessary stress for the students resulting in adverse psychological impact.

We then started to plan for a new model of remediation and supplementary classes, which freed up manpower and gave us affordances to conduct stretch programmes. Our staff were also effectively deployed based on their multitude of strengths.

With God's blessings and guidance, we know we are highly favoured by Him. We have come a long way since then; our QSE survey results have improved tremendously, and staff are now ever more willing to celebrate the process and look beyond. We now also celebrate one another's strength, providing holistic education - academically and in co-curricular domains for our girls.

"May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands."

Psalms 90:17

We are Deeply Loved.

I strongly believe in affirming people - both children and adults - letting them know that they are being appreciated.

I can proudly share that indeed, our girls seem genuinely happy. Many of them have grown in their confidence, their willingness to share and are forthcoming. The

"Catch You Doing

Good" culture,

and affirmation

by meeting Mr

Bear have also

motivated the

girls to be a

blessing to others

at all times. Our

girls now know that

their Principal's office

is always open and

welcoming. Teachers on

the other hand, are also

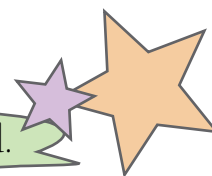
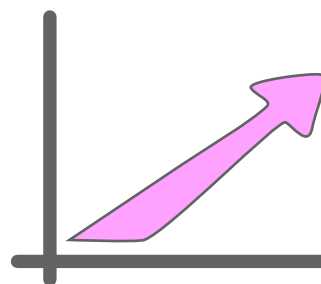
actively looking out for

children who do good and this is something they have shared that they truly appreciate. This has been, to me, very precious and powerful.

There are indeed many things we can celebrate other than academic achievements. More than that, I know each and every Marymount girl is deeply loved by God.

"For I know the plans I have for you."

Jeremiah 29:11



Students need to
experience the joy
of learning.

~ Mrs Allison Lim

Part 2: The Marymount Experience - God is Our Light

How has the Marymount Experience impacted you?

The Marymount Experience has reinforced two things - God is Wonderful and God is Our Light.

Through His provisions, in all that has happened, God has led many kind people to us, and Has never failed to do so at the very moment that we needed them.

I have a team of wonderful staff, whose ardour for the girls' well-being and learning, has truly inspired me and to whom I am ever so grateful. The trust and support from Marymount teachers, being open about sharing their views and experiences with me and allowing me into their classrooms, has truly touched my heart. This has enabled me to understand the ground much better.



I am also very grateful for the wonderful parents of our girls, who have been ever so willing and supportive in their partnership with us. Many of them write to affirm and encourage us at every opportunity possible.



The Chairperson of MCS, Ms Cecilia Ee and all Board Members have also been very supportive with their candid feedback,

consistent encouragement and affirmation.

Next, drawing on God's wisdom and guidance, by taking into consideration the rich sharing and feedback from staff, and understanding the context of the school, we drew out a 5-year plan which saw programmes like Outdoor Experiential Learning Experiences (OELE), Differentiated Instruction (DI), training for teachers and the various initiatives, including subject-based banding, taking off strongly. We have observed a steady improvement in our PSLE results over the last 5 years.

With God's blessings, I truly feel very well-supported as I took on God's calling for this role. God has illuminated our paths and provided us with the collective wisdom on

how to forge forward together for our girls.

"The LORD is my light and my salvation,"

Psalms 27:1a

Part 3: Abundance in Blessings

After journeying through the last six years with the MCS Family, what, in your opinion, do you think makes MCS unique?

I truly believe that at Marymount Convent School, we are abundant in blessings. We are able to provide a safe, comfortable learning environment with the help and support of so many people, without having to worry about finances. Things always eventually fall into place, with God's given wisdom, creative team and collected resources. Again, we are truly blessed, highly favoured, and deeply loved.

I am very happy to share that our QSE survey results have seen significant improvement in recent years, where students have felt their school experiences were very positive. With God's blessings, our girls have been wonderful and teachable. Even our young Primary 1 girls would come by my office wanting to pray for the safety of everyone during the pandemic while others would email or draw pictures for the staff to show their support.

I feel very loved by our Marymount staff, who have been showing me so much grace, trust, support and gentleness. They are a very caring bunch and this truly shone through the years when we had to face the pandemic - the teachers were doing all they could, like learning new ICT tools to ensure that students were still learning effectively, be it from home or school. It has truly been a wonderful leadership experience.

Through God's provision, it has been a tremendous blessing to be here to answer the call to Good Shepherd.

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8

Part 4: Before we part

What advice do you have for our MCS girls?

Girls, always be grateful and humble. Constantly count your blessings and be grateful that you are in a place of abundance. You are blessed in comfort and talent.

Now, you must constantly seek to be a blessing to others with your talents and gifts and help those around you and beyond. By continuing to hone these skills, you will grow and glow brightly wherever you go! God is our light.





Is there anything you would like to say to the MCS Family?

I am truly very grateful to the staff, who have been a great support and really like a family to me. It has been such a great experience and an exciting journey of personal growth seeing staff develop and scaling new heights. Together, our collective efforts have seen our girls blossom and we regularly receive affirmation from external lenses.

Thank you, for the belief in me - that lifted my Leadership.

Thank you, for the love and support - that forged our Partnership.

Thank you, for the trust and care - that built our Friendship.

I truly hope this friendship will continue and we will all have the chance to cross paths again, be it through work or in our personal lives.

Marymount Convent School can only get better and better. Being unique and beautiful, may you always shine, both staff and students.

Thank you.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8

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~ Ephesians 2:8



Catholic Education Sunday

Catholic Education Sunday (CES) has been celebrated annually in Singapore since 2017, bringing together the Archdiocese of Singapore's educational community, and over 50,000 students from nurseries, pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools and junior colleges. It highlights the important partnership between school, parish and home, with staff, students and parents participating in the liturgy. It is also a celebration for the non-Catholic community within Catholic schools, recognising their service to our wider society. The theme of CES2022 was To Love, Dignify, Serve And Lead.



On the morning of 11 September 2022, I was in my well-pressed uniform, sitting in a train that was heading towards the Church of the Holy Spirit at Upper Thomson. I could not wait to read at mass as a representative of Marymount Convent School!



I met up with two fellow student readers from my school when I reached the church. Before the start of the liturgy, Mrs Nelson said a little

prayer with us to calm us down, so that we would not be too nervous for our readings.

My grandmother, mother and brother were sitting at the opposite pew, which was where we usually sit at mass. We exchanged eye contact and they waved and smiled at me. That made me feel truly comforted and encouraged.

When it was my turn to deliver my reading, my heart was racing! I was so nervous and excited at the same time! Even though I stumbled a little, I was confident that I had done my reading well. It was not as nerve-racking as I had expected.

After mass, all teachers, student representatives and I took a group photo with our Vice Principal, Mdm Anna Tan. It was quite a happy and exciting experience. More importantly, this has provided me with a Catholic perspective on how we should live our lives in a way that is truly meaningful and fulfilling.



Lucy Choo Su Si'En
5 Gratitude

Reflections on Upcycling Project

Objective of the National Youth Upcycling Movement (NYUM)

The upcycling project was an initiative by NYUM which focusses on preparing students

to be responsible global citizens. Its objective this year was to educate youth on the threats facing the natural environment and inspire them to take action in promoting a culture of sustainability through upcycling and green consumerism.

Impact

By volunteering in the upcycling project, I realized how upcycling benefits the environment by reducing the pollutants of air, land and water in the processing of new goods, as well as preventing additional natural resources from being used.



My takeaways & challenges

This project empowered my team to design and create upcycled household items using waste materials, with guidance from our teachers. I learnt the importance of teamwork between us members and effective communication between our teacher-in-charge, Mrs Joel, and us, for the success of our project. Through this project, I also learnt to speak confidently as we had to go around asking for donation of plastic bottles from our peers and teachers as well as promoting our end products to them – to reap the benefits of our hard work! Last but not least, I learnt how satisfying it is to be selfless when we donated the sales proceeds to a good cause. One key challenge was time. However, I learnt to manage my time better and strike a balance between schoolwork, CCA activities and preparation for the project.

I truly enjoyed this initiative and I am proud to have been a part of it!



Low Yu Xin Lernice
5 Compassion



இதோ! தீபாவளி வந்துவிட்டது!



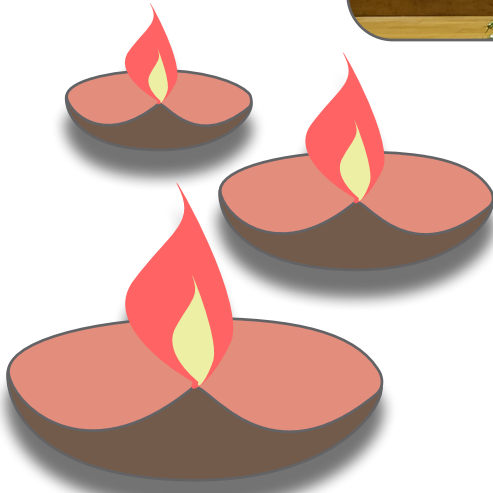
தீபாவளி என்றாலே வண்ண விளக்குகள்தான் ஞாபகத்திற்கு வருகின்றன. மேரிமௌண்ட் கான்வண்டில் நாங்கள் தீபாவளியைப் பல இன மாணவிகளோடு ஒன்று சேர்ந்து பள்ளி மண்டபத்தில் கொண்டாடுவது வழக்கம். இவ்வாண்டும் இதே போலவே நாங்கள் அனைவரும் பள்ளி மண்டபத்தில் கொண்டாடி மகிழ இருக்கிறோம்.

நிறைய ஆடல் பாடல் கூடிய கலை நிகழ்ச்சி ஒன்று நடைபெறும். அந்நிகழ்ச்சியில் தீபாவளி பற்றியும் அதன் தொடர்பான கதையும் காட்சிகள் இடம்பெறும். இதில் கூறப்படும் தகவல்கள் எங்களுக்கு மிகவும் உதவியாகவும் ஆக்கப்பூர்வமாகவும் இருக்கும். ஆங்கிலத்தில் இது படைக்கப்படுவதால் பிற இன மாணவிகளும் தீபாவளியைப் பற்றி அறிந்துகொள்ளவும் நமது கலாச்சாரத்தைப் பற்றி மேலும் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவும் முடிகிறது. புதிர் போட்டியும் அதில் ஓர் அங்கமாக இடம்பெறுவது எங்களுக்கு மேலும் உற்சாகத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும்.

வீட்டில் குடும்பத்துடன் கோலாகலமாகக் கொண்டாடும் அதே வேளையில் பள்ளியில் பல இன மக்களுடன் தீபாவளியைக் கொண்டாடுவது இன நல்லிணக்கத்தையும் வலுப்படுத்துகிறது. இவ்வாண்டு தீபாவளி நிகழ்ச்சியை என் சக மாணவிகளுடன் கண்டு மகிழ நான் மிகவும் ஆவலாக இருக்கிறேன். இவ்வேளையில் தீபாவளி கொண்டாடும் அனைவருக்கும் எனது இனிய தீபாவளி நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்!



Babu Rihana
5 Perseverance



DEEPAVALI



My Love for



My six years in Marymount Convent School (MCS) was one filled with laughter, joy and wonderful memories. I am grateful to MCS, my second home, for giving me many opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and experience new things.

One of the many experiences that is strongly etched in my heart is the 3-day Primary 5 outdoor camp. Amid the COVID-19 situation, the teachers made the camp possible! From obstacle course, abseiling, pitching tents, playing games, hiking, "longkang" fishing, there were challenging moments, but it was definitely fun and memorable. To me, perseverance and teamwork were the most important ingredients throughout the camp.

Of course, there were many other meaningful and enjoyable experiences too. Just to name a few, the Primary 1 picnic in school with friends and our parents, the Primary 3 outdoor cooking camp and visits to Mrs Allison Lim's huge teddy bear, Mr Bear. I visited Mr Bear three times for collecting a certain number of star cards for Mathematics and also for doing a presentation on an OELE coding experience, which was the most nerve-wrecking moment in my life. Taking a picture with Mr Bear was really a great way to motivate and acknowledge the efforts of the students.

Last but not least, the Children's Day celebration this year was extremely memorable after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, I feel sad that I would not be celebrating Children's Day anymore, but I am definitely grateful that I wrapped up my last Children's Day celebration by enjoying the fun-filled activities that the school had organised.

Through my six years in MCS, I have grown from a seed to a young plant and carried many values with me. It indeed takes a village to raise a child! My sincerest thanks to all teachers who have taught me since Primary 1 and to all the non-teaching staff who played such an important role to nurture us. 'Once a Marymount girl, always a Marymount girl'. Thank you, MCS family!



Cass Chau Wing Sum
6 Zeal

